

Message Text

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62

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1497

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

DIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

CGUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GERMANY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER/IN

CINCUSAFE LINDSEY AS GER/NC

HQDA/DAMO-SSA/WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

CNO OPS 63 WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES FOREIGN TRAINING PROGRAM

REFS: A. LISBON 4818 NOV 1974

B. CHMAAG LISBON PO CONF NAS SUBJ: FY 75-76

PORTUGUESE TRAINING PROGRAM DTG 130936Z JAN 75 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE ARMY AND NAVY HAVE CANCELLED ESSENTIALLY ALL FOREIGN TRAINING. CANCELLATION EXPLAINED IN REFTELS. NEWSWEEK OF JAN. 13, 1975 INDICATES THAT PORTUGUESE OFFICERS ATTENDING FOREIGN MILITARY SCHOOLS ARE RAPIDLY BEING CALLED HOME. END SUMMARY.

2. NEWSEK INTERNATIONAL ISSUE OF JANUARY 13, 1975 PAGE 6 UNDER "PERISCOPE" MADE THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

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"BACK TO THE BARRACKS"

"PORTUGUESE OFFICERS ATTENDING FOREIGN MILITARY SCHOOLS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE UNITED STATES, WEST GERMANY, FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN, ARE RAPIDLY BEING CALLED HOME. PORTUGUESE ARMY STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PULLED OUT AND NOW THE NAVAL OFFICERS ARE GOING. OFFICIALLY, LISBON SAYS IT IS TAKING THE ACTION BECAUSE IT NEEDS TRAINED OFFICERS AT HOME. THE SUSPICION IN OTHER QUARTERS, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES WANTS TO CHECK THE POLITICAL LOYALTIES OF THE OFFICERS."

3. COMMENT: ONE NAVAL OFFICER WAS RETURNED TO PORTUGAL A WEEK EARLY BECAUSE IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE LAST WEEK OF HIS TRAINING WOULD DUPLICATE MATERIAL HE HAD RECEIVED EARLIER IN ANOTHER COURSE. NO OTHER PORTUGUESE MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN CALLED HOME PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF SCHEDULED TRAINING.

4. AS INDICATED IN REFERENCES PORTUGUESE ARMY AND NAVY HAVE CANCELLED ESSENTIALLY ALL FOREIGN TRAINING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1975. THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE CONTINUES ENTHUSIASTICALLY PURSUING THE ESTABLISHED PROGRAM.

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